WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for generating a multi-version document using an original version and a revised version of a structured document, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting common portions included commonly in both the original version and the revised version of the structured document, and difference portions specific to either the original version or the revised version, said common portions each composed of a structure and text character strings; and

creating said multi-version document based on said extraction, wherein said multi-version document includes:

said extracted common portions each having a version description tag attached thereto, said version description tag including version identifiers of the original version and the revised version and node identifiers of the common portion in both the original version and the revised version; and

said extracted difference portions each having a version description tag attached thereto, said version description tag including a version identifier of a version which includes the difference portion, a node identifier of the difference portion in the version which includes the difference portion, and information specifying whether the

difference portion was generated as a result of insertion or modification.

2. The method for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 1, said method further comprising a step of:

when a further-revised version is created, performing said extraction and said creation using a latest version included in said multi-version document and said further-revised version to create a new multi-version document.

3. The method for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 2, wherein said new multi-version document is written in an XML format.

4. The method for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising a step of:

displaying any arbitrary version based on said new multi-version document.

5. The method for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 2, said method further comprising a step of:

displaying difference between a specified version and another version based on said multi-version document.

6. The method for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 2, wherein an XML namespace is

applied to said version description tag.

      7. A system for generating a multi-version document using an original version and a revised version of a structured document, said system comprising:

5   means for extracting common portions included commonly in both the original version and the revised version of the structured document, and difference portions specific to either the original version or the revised version, said common portions each composed of a structure

10 and text character strings; and

      means for creating said multi-version document based on said extraction, wherein said multi-version document includes:

      said extracted common portions each having a version

15 description tag attached thereto, said version description tag including version identifiers of the original version and the revised version and node identifiers of the common portion in both the original version and the revised version; and

20   said extracted difference portions each having a version description tag attached thereto, said version description tag including a version identifier of a version which includes the difference portion, a node identifier of the difference portion in the version which includes the

25 difference portion, and information specifying whether the

difference portion was generated as a result of insertion or modification.

8. The system for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for, when a further-revised version is created, performing said extraction and said creation using a latest version included in said multi-version document and said further-revised version to create a new multi-version document.

9. The system for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 8, wherein said new multi-version document is written in an XML format.

10. The system for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 8, said system further comprising:

means for displaying any arbitrary version based on said new multi-version document.

11. The system for generating a multi-version document as claimed in claim 8, said system further comprising:

means for displaying difference between a specified version and another version based on said multi-version document.

12. The system for generating a multi-version

document as claimed in claim 8, wherein an XML namespace is
applied to said version description tag.